



Mr. Joseph Martino
Chair-TCDSB Board of Trustees

April 27, 2021

Dear Mr. Martino:

The approximately five thousand (5000) elementary Catholic teachers in the Toronto Catholic District Community strive every day to create safe and welcoming environments for all students, teachers, and education workers. Our Association is proud of the role we have played in changing attitudes and advancing rights at the local level and throughout the province. However, just like in the wider community, some students and staff in our schools who identify as LGBTQ2S1+ continue to face bullying, discrimination and harassment.

The Pride flag is a symbol of the dignity of all people including those in the LGBTQ2SI+ community. Flying the flag is an essential action for the school board to take not only on behalf of the students and staff who identify as LGBTQ2SI+, but also for their parents and families, along with others in the broader community. It is a way of recognizing the struggles endured by people who identify as LGBTQ2SI+, while visibly demonstrating our Catholic school community's support for the human rights of all. This is a meaningful act showing our deep belief in the unconditional love God has for us all. It is also an important step toward creating a culture that respects the health and well-being of LGBTQ2SI+ people.

Throughout Pride month, our Association will be displaying our OECTA rainbow Pride flag and other materials as signs of support for our members, students, and others in the community. We strongly urge the TCDSB to join us by flying the traditional Pride flag at the Catholic Education Centre.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Altomare-Di Nunzio".

Julie Altomare-Di Nunzio
TECT President

cc. Board of Trustees
cc. Dr. Brendan Browne